



Town of Groton - Public Works

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Public Works
Administration
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Meeting Minutes

Permanent School Building Committee

Chairman Rick DeMatto, Vice-Chairman W. Gordon Lange, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Richard Monteiro, Robert Morrison, David Russell, and John Webster.

Thursday, August 7, 2008

7:00 PM

Fitch High School - meeting room to be announced

Special Meeting

1. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Chairman Rick DeMatto, Robert J. Austin-LaFrance, Gordon Lange, Richard Monteiro, David Russell and John Webster

Members Absent: Robert Morrison

Staff: Rick Norris, Project Manager - School Construction, Wes Greenleaf, Director of School Buildings & Grounds, GPS and Colleen Quattromani, Recorder.

Also present: Mark Oefinger, Town Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

2. TOUR OF FITCH HIGH SCHOOL RENOVATION PROJECT

The meeting began with a tour of the Fitch High School Renovation Project. Mr. Norris took the PSBC through the new Administrative offices, the Nurse's Suite, the School based Health Center and the new cueing area for the Cafeteria. The group also looked at the Robotics/Mechanics shops where renovation has experienced delay due to the discovery of asbestos and the need for abatement.

3. RECEIPT OF CITIZEN'S PETITIONS, COMMENTS AND CONCERNS

None.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a) Special Meeting July 17, 2008

Vice-chairman Lange made a motion seconded by Mr. Russell to accept the meeting minutes of the Special Meeting of July 17, 2008 as written. The motion passed with one abstention by Mr. LaFrance.

b) Regular Meeting July 17, 2008

Vice-chairman Lange made a motion seconded by Mr. Russell to accept the Regular Minutes of July 17, 2008 as written. The motion passed with one abstention by Mr. LaFrance.

5. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS (other than Subcommittee reports)

(a) PSBC Members

None.

(b) Catherine Kolnaski and Northeast Academy Elementary School

Mr. Norris took the Mayor and Mr. Peruzzotti on a tour of the School Building Projects.

Mr. Norris continues work on project close out and said that about half the contracts for the elementary school projects are either complete or submitted for closeout. He is meeting with the vendor for the security camera and card reader tomorrow. A local electronics contractor is being sought to modify the sound systems at the elementary schools for remote access. The Project

Team has been working on a problem with the boiler at Catherine Kolnaski. Harrington Engineers has been contracted to for an independent review of the system. The Glass contractor has been addressing issues with the doors at Kolnaski, adding door stops, etc not requested in the original specifications to the project. Mr. Norris told the Committee that he would have an update on the punchlist items for the next meeting. The PSBC may be requested to approve additional items for the projects.

The PSBC was told that the playfields at the elementary schools are fenced off while the Town gets inputs from the Landscape Architect on how the soil, found to be contaminated with glass and debris, is to be replaced.

On Technology issues the PSBC was told that the wireless systems are working at both elementary school. The projectors are in place at Northeast Academy and installation at Catherine Kolnaski Magnet School should be complete by the middle of next week. Because the system is not fully operational, the professional team chose to postpone the IT demonstration originally scheduled for tonight's meeting.

(c) Fitch High School Addition and Renovation Project

1. Department of Public Works staff

Mr. Norris's report to the Town Manager was distributed and he continued his discussion from the tour on the renovation project. The discovery of asbestos delayed work of the Robotics/Mechanics rooms, the alternate parking lot and the demolition of the old Social Studies wing. Efforts are being made to ensure that the Robotics/Mechanic area is acceptable for student occupation at school opening even if the machinery is not connected. Demolition of the old science wing is proceeding but asbestos removal was needed on the roof area so this lot may not be available for school opening. This should not cause a problem for parking at the facility as the temporary lot is still available.

Discussion moved on to the Technology System. The wireless system has been installed and the antennas were tested Wednesday. Results are due back on a diagnostic test Friday and they should assist the IT contractor in correcting several configuration problems discovered earlier in the week. The video furnace is working at Fitch High School but not at the elementary schools because the communication systems there are not operating properly. TV reception, which facilitates the elementary schools' morning announcements, will not be available until the video furnace is in operation.

The PBSC was unhappy that JCJ Architecture was not present to discuss the Technology Systems. Chairman DeMatto asked that the minutes reflect that a promise was made and that the unfulfilled promise undermines the credibility of the School Building Projects.

The group also reviewed the financial status of the projects. The expenditures to date were reviewed and the expected reimbursement rates from the State were discussed. The PSBC talked about recent articles on the State's action against towns whose predicted student populations were higher than actual when the State conducted their project audits. The methods used for predicting the student population in Groton are state of the art and used the best information available at the time.

2. Gilbane Building Company

No report.

3. JCJ Architecture

No report.

4. Board of Education staff

Mr. Greenleaf made the PSBC aware of an issue Fitch High School and the two elementary schools are having with the fire alarm systems. Each of the buildings has experienced lightning

strikes. Mr. Greenleaf has worked with the Fire Marshall to determine what the issue is but may need an outside consultant or engineer to review the integration of the fire alarm system with the electrical system. The Fitch fire alarm has been disconnected in the meantime and Mr. Greenleaf will need to station a fire watch for the school if the problem is not resolved by the start of the new school year.

6. RECEIPT OF SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

a) School Building Phase II Committee

Vice-chairman Lange told the group that the Phase II Committee is still trying to decide if the Town needs one or two new middle schools and where the new school/s would be located. The Phase II Committee meets again on August 28th.

b) School Opening Celebration

The invitations for the Fitch High School Celebration Ceremony went out in the mail on August 4th. The next meeting of the Celebration Committee is August 20th. The Celebration Ceremony is Saturday, September 6th.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

8. NEW BUSINESS

None.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM.